

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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SUBJECT: RECIPROCITY FOR OFFICIAL AND DIPLOMATIC VISAS

REF: PRAGUE 1170, WARSAW 2875 (NOTAL)

1. PASSPORT OFFICE DOES KEEP RECORDS OF LENGTH OF TIME ELAPSED BETWEEN SUBMISSION OF NOTE TO EMBASSIES AND RETURN OF VISAED PASSPORT TO DEPARTMENT. CHECK OF RECENT CASES REVEALS NO CLEAR PATTERN FOR EITHER COUNTRY. BOTH EMBASSIES HAVE ISSUED VISAS WITHIN 3 TO 4 DAYS, BUT POLES RECENTLY TOOK 30 DAYS TO ISSUE ONE VISA, AND CZECHS DELAYED 12 DAYS IN SEPARATE CASES. FIGURES ON LENGTH OF TIME ARE NOT FULLY ACCURATE, SINCE A PASSPORT MAY BE CIRCULATED TO SEVERAL EMBASSIES FOR VISAS.

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2. PASSPORT OFFICE HAS DONE STUDY OF VISA DELAYS

EXPERIENCED BY USG EMPLOYEES TRAVELLING TO ALL EE POSTS BETWEEN SEPT. 1975 AND MAY 1976. WE ARE POUCHING A COPY OF STUDY, TO ALL ADDRESSEES, WHICH INCLUDES: NAMES PURPOSE OF TRAVEL, AND LENGTH OF DELAY (IN TOTAL, NOT WORKING DAYS) IN EACH CASE.

3. FYI: EMBASSY BUDAPEST HAS DEALT WITH PROBLEM THROUGH EXCHANGE OF NOTES WITH HUNGARIAN AUTHORITIES. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND POSSIBLE USE, THE BASIC TEXT OF OUR NOTE FOLLOWS:

". . . THE USG IS PREPARED, ON A BASIS OF RECIPROCITY AND WITH AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF APRIL 6, TO ISSUE NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS ON A FACILITATED BASIS TO CERTAIN HOLDERS OF HUNGARIAN DIPLOMATIC OR OFFICIAL PASSPORTS AS DEFINED IN AND SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS STIPULATED IN PARAGRAPHS (A), (B) AND (C) FOLLOWING.

(A) HOLDERS OF HUNGARIAN DIPLOMATIC OR OFFICIAL PASSPORTS BEING ASSIGNED PERMANENTLY OR TEMPORARILY TO THE HUNGARIAN EMBASSY AT WASHINGTON AND THE HUNGARIAN CONSULATE GENERAL AT NEW YORK, AND MEMBERS OF THE HUNGARIAN PERMANENT OR TEMPORARY DELGATIONS TO THE UN, AND IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE ABOVE CAN EXPECT THAT THE USG WILL NORMALLY COMPLETE PROCESSING OF VISA APPLICATIONS IN SEVEN DAYS FROM THE DATE OF SUBMISSION.

(B) IN URGENT CASES IN THE ABOVE CATEGORIES, PLUS IN CASES OF HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS AND THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS WHO WISH ONLY TO TRANSIT THE US, THE USG WILL DECIDE VISA APPLICATIONS IN LESS THAN SEVEN DAYS, AND IF NEEDS REQUIRE EVEN IMMEDIATELY, PROVIDED THE USG RECEIVES, AT THE TIME OF VISA ISSUANCE, INFORMATION AS TO THE TRAVELLER'S PLANNED DATE AND PORT OF ARRIVAL IN THE US, IDENTIFICATION OF THE MEANS OF TRANSPORT TO BE UTILIZED, INCLUDING AIRLINE NAME AND FLIGHT NUMBER IF APPLICABLE, THE DESTINATION OR PURPOSE OF ENTRY, AND, IN THE CASE OF TRANSIT TRAVELLERS, THE ITINERARY THROUGH AND MEANS OF TRANSPORT FROM THE US.

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(C) THE USG WILL LIKEWISE ENDEAVOR TO DECIDE VISA APPLICATION OF HOLDERS OF HUNGARIAN DIPLOMATIC OR OFFICIAL PASSPORTS, WHO ARE NOT IN THE ABOVE CATEGORIES, IN SEVEN CALENDAR DAYS OR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AS PERMITTED BY US VISA REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES. THE USG WILL SIMILARLY ENDEAVOR TO DECIDE IN SEVEN DAYS OR LESS APPLICATIONS FOR " COURTESY" VISAS FROM HUNGARIANS DESIRING TO MAKE PERSONAL VISITS TO HUNGARIAN

OFFICIALS ASSIGNED IN THE US.

THE USG PROPOSES THAT THIS NOTE, TOGETHER WITH
THE HUNGARIANREPLY NOTE SPECIFYING LIKE HUNGARIAN VISA
FACILITATION FOR SIMILAR HOLDERS OF US DIPLOMATIC AND
OFFICIAL PASSPORTS, CONSTITUTE THE OFFICIAL AGREEMENT
ON THIS MATTER BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS."

4. WE WOULD PREFER ORAL AGREEMENT TO WRITTEN ONE,
BUT WE ANTICIPATE THAT POLES AND CZECHS WILL WANT
AGREEMENT ON PAPER. EMBASSIES ARE AUTHORIZED TO CONCLUDE
AGREEMENTS SIMILAR TO US-HUNGARIAN ONE IF DEEMED
NECESSARY. KISSINGER

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